

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for processing a signal in a moveable vehicle having an engine, comprising:

a first fuel governor-selecting operable to receive a throttle signal indicative of a desired throttle of the vehicle and to transmit a first fuel signal indicative of a first desired quantity of fuel to be supplied to the engine as a function of the throttle signal;

a second fuel governor operable to receive the throttle signal and to transmit a second fuel signal indicative of a second desired quantity of fuel to be supplied to the engine as a function of the throttle signal;

a first sensor operable to determine a first characteristic of the vehicle and to transmit a first selecting signal as a function of the first characteristic; and

a governor-selecting device coupled with the sensor to receive the first selecting signal, the governor-selecting device operable to at least one of:

receive the throttle signal and to transmit the throttle signal to one of the first and second governor as a function of the first selecting signal; and

be coupled with the first and second governor to respectively receive the first and second fuel signals, and operable to transmit one of the first and second fuel signals as a function of the first selecting signal.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first characteristic of the motor vehicle comprises at least one of whether the vehicle is in motion,

whether a parking brake is set, and whether a transmission of the vehicle is in neutral.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first selecting signal is indicative of whether the vehicle is in motion and the governor-selecting device is operable to at least one of:

transmit the throttle signal to the first governor as a function of the vehicle being in motion and to transmit the throttle signal to the second governor as a function of the vehicle not being in motion; and

transmit the first fuel signal as a function of the vehicle being in motion and to transmit the second fuel signal as a function of the vehicle not being in motion.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
a second sensor operable to determine a second characteristic of the vehicle and to transmit a second selecting signal as a function of the second characteristic; and

the governor-selecting device is operable to be coupled with the second sensor to receive the second selection signal, and to at least one of:

transmit the throttle signal to one of the first and second governors as a function of at least one of the first and second selecting signals; and

transmit one of the first and second fuel signals as a function of at least one of the first and second selecting signals

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein one of the first selecting signal and the second selecting signal is indicative of whether the transmission is

in neutral and the other of the first selecting signal and the second selecting signal is indicative of whether the vehicle is in motion; and

the governor-selecting device is operable to at least one of:

transmit the throttle signal to the first governor as a function of the vehicle being in motion and transmit the throttle signal to the second fuel governor as a function of the vehicle not being in motion and the transmission being in neutral; and

transmit the first fuel signal as a function of the vehicle being in motion and to transmit the second fuel signal as a function of the vehicle not being in motion and the transmission being in neutral.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second fuel governor is further operable to receive a second control signal indicative of a third characteristic of the vehicle, and the second fuel governor is further operable to transmit the second fuel signal as a function of the second control signal.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the third characteristic of the vehicle comprises an engine speed.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first fuel governor is operable to control engine power; and

the second fuel governor is operable to control engine speed.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the moveable vehicle comprises a truck.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first fuel governor the second fuel governor, and the governor-selecting device comprise circuits.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the circuits comprise at least one of hardware and software.

12. An apparatus for processing a signal in a moveable vehicle having an engine, comprising:

a first combustion governor operable to receive a first control signal and to transmit a first governor signal operable to control an engine speed of the engine as a function of the first control signal;

a second combustion governor operable to receive the first control signal and to transmit a second governor signal operable to control an engine power production of the engine as a function of the first control signal;

a first sensor operable to determine a first characteristic of the vehicle and to transmit a first selecting signal as a function of the first characteristic; and

a governor-selecting device coupled with the sensor to receive the first selecting signal, the governor-selecting device operable to at least one of:

receive the first control signal and to transmit the first control of the first selecting signal; and

be coupled with at least one of the first and second governors to receive at least one of the first and second governor signals, and operable to transmit one of the first and second governor signals as a function of the first selecting signal.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the first control signal comprises a throttle signal.

14. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the first and second governor signals comprise fuel signals indicative of at least one of a desired quantity of fuel, a desired quantity of air, and a desired quantity of an air/fuel mixture for the engine.

15. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the first characteristic of the motor vehicle comprises at least one of whether the vehicle is in motion, whether a parking brake is set, and whether a transmission of the engine is in neutral.

16. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the first selecting signal is indicative of whether the vehicle is in motion and the governor-selecting device is operable to at least one of:

vehicle being in motion and to transmit the first control signal to the second governor as a function of the vehicle not being in motion; and

transmit the first governor signal as a function of the vehicle being in motion and to transmit the second governor signal as a function of the vehicle not being in motion.

17. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:  
a second sensor operable to determine a second characteristic of the vehicle and to transmit a second selecting signal as a function of the second characteristic; and

the governor-selecting device is operable to be coupled with the second sensor to receive the second selection signal, and operable to at least one of:

transmit the first control signal to one of the first and second governors as a function of at least one of the first and second selecting signals; and

transmit one of the first and second governor signals as a function of at least one of the first and second selecting signals.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein one of the first selecting signal and the second selecting signal is indicative of whether the transmission is in neutral and the other of the first selecting signal and the second selecting signal is indicative of whether the vehicle is in motion; and

the governor-selecting device is operable to at least one of:  
transmit the first control signal to the first governor as a function of the vehicle being in motion and transmit the first control signal to the second governor as a function of the vehicle not being in motion and the transmission being in neutral; and

transmit the first governor signal as a function of the vehicle being in motion and to transmit the second governor signal as a function of the vehicle not being in motion and the transmission being in neutral.

19. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the second combustion governor is further operable to receive a second control signal indicative of a third characteristic of the vehicle, and the second combustion governor is further operable to transmit the second governor signal as a function of the second control signal.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the third characteristic of the vehicle comprises an engine speed.

21. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the moveable vehicle comprises a truck.

22. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the first combustion governor, the second combustion governor, and the governor-selecting device comprise circuits.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the circuits comprise at least one of hardware and software.

24. An apparatus for processing a signal in a moveable vehicle having an engine, comprising:

a first means for receiving a throttle signal indicative of a desired throttle of the vehicle and for transmitting a first fuel signal indicative of a first desired quantity of fuel to be supplied to the engine as a function of the throttle signal;

a second means for receiving the throttle signal and for transmitting a second fuel signal indicative of a second desired quantity of fuel to be supplied to the engine as a function of the throttle signal;

a first sensing means for determine a first characteristic of the vehicle and for transmitting a first selecting signal as a function of the first characteristic; and

a selecting means for receiving the first selecting signal and operable to at least one of:

receive the throttle signal and to transmit the throttle signal to one of the first and second means for receiving the throttle signal as a function of the first selecting signal; and

receive the first and second fuel signals, and to transmit one of the first and second fuel signals as a function of the first selecting signal.

25. A method for determining a fuel quantity for an engine of a vehicle, comprising:

determining a desired throttle for the vehicle;

determining a first characteristic of the vehicle;

determining a first fuel quantity to be supplied to the engine as a function of the desired throttle when the first characteristic has a first condition;

determining a second fuel quantity to be supplied to the engine as a function of the desired throttle when the first characteristic has a second condition; and

transmitting a signal indicative of one of the first and second fuel quantities as a function of the first characteristic.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the first characteristic of the vehicle comprises at least one of whether the vehicle is in motion, whether a parking brake is set, and whether a transmission of the engine is in neutral.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein the first characteristic is indicative of whether the vehicle is in motion; and

transmitting a signal indicative of one of the first and second fuel quantities to the engine as a function of the first characteristic comprises:

transmitting a signal indicative of one of the first and second fuel quantities as a function of when the vehicle is in motion; and

transmitting a signal indicative of the other of the first and second fuel quantities when the vehicle is not in motion.



28. The method of claim 25, further comprising:  
determining a second characteristic of the vehicle; and  
wherein transmitting a signal indicative of one of the first  
and second fuel quantities as a function of the first characteristic comprises  
transmitting a signal indicative of one of the first and second fuel quantities as a  
function of the first and second characteristics.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the first characteristic is  
indicative of whether a transmission of the engine is in neutral and the second  
characteristic is indicative of whether the vehicle is in motion; and  
transmitting a signal indicative of one of the first and  
second fuel quantities as a function of the first characteristic comprises  
transmitting a signal indicative of the first fuel quantity as a function of the  
vehicle being in motion and transmitting the second fuel quantity as a function of  
the vehicle not being in motion and the transmission being in neutral.

30. The method of claim 25, further comprising:  
determining a third characteristic of the vehicle; and  
wherein determining a second fuel quantity to be supplied  
to the engine as a function of the desired throttle when the first characteristic has  
a second condition comprises determining a second fuel quantity to be supplied  
to the engine as a function of the desired throttle and the third characteristic of the  
vehicle when the first characteristic has the second condition.

31. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the third characteristic  
of the vehicle comprises an engine speed.

32. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein transmitting a signal indicative of one of the first and second fuel quantities is operable to control an engine power; and  
transmitting the other of the first and second fuel quantities is operable to control an engine speed.

33. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the vehicle comprises a truck.

34. A method for determining a fuel quantity for an engine of a vehicle, comprising:

determining a desired characteristic of the engine, the desired characteristic operable to control a combustion event of the engine;

determining whether the vehicle is in a parked mode;

determining at least one of:

a first fuel quantity to be supplied to the engine as a function of the desired characteristic of the engine when the vehicle is not in the parked mode, and

a second fuel quantity to be supplied to the engine as a function of the desired characteristic of the engine when the vehicle is in the parked mode; and

transmitting a signal indicative of one of the first and second fuel quantities as a function of whether the vehicle is in the parked mode.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein the desired characteristic of the engine comprises one of a desired engine speed and a desired power production.

36. The method of claim 34, further comprising:  
determining an actual engine speed of the vehicle; and  
wherein determining the second fuel quantity comprises  
determining the second fuel quantity as a function of the desired characteristic of  
the engine and the actual engine speed.

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